GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2820
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
POLICY ON BROADCAST OF MOBILE T.V.
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow the opening up of Terrestrial Television (TT) broadcasting so that operators can offer mobile television services in the country;

(b) if so,the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to impose any limit/cap on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in companies offering mobile TV broadcasting;

(d) if so,the details thereof;

(e) the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in this regard;and

(f) the manner in which the available infrastructure would be shared between mobile companies and TV companies?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (f): A policy to allow the opening up of terrestrial television broadcasting so as to enable the operators to offer mobile TV services is under consideration of Government.The proposed policy inter-alia covers all issues such as licensing, regulatory mechanism,cross-media restrictions,foreign investment,sharing of infrastructure etc.

TRAI has,in its recommendations dated 23.01.2008 recommended composite foreign investment limit including FDI of 74% for mobile TV service while reiterating its earlier recommendations for a complete review of FDI policy relating to carriage aspects of electronic media as a whole so that it is consistent across all sectors. Authority has further recommended that foreign investments upto 49% may be permitted under the automatic route,beyond which FIPB approval will be required.The detailed recommendations are available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in. and include recommendations regarding sharing of infrastructure.